

(Draft – Awaiting Formal Approval)

**MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 17, 2013 – 2:30 p.m. – Room 25 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Todd Weiler, Senate Chair
Rep. Curtis Oda, House Chair
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Luz Robles
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Rep. Derek E. Brown
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Keith Grover
Rep. Dana Layton
Rep. Edward H. Redd
Rep. Marc K. Roberts
Rep. Keven J. Stratton

Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

President Wayne L. Niederhauser
Rep. Paul Ray
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig

Staff Present:

Mr. Nathan W. Brady, Policy Analyst
Ms. Susan Creager Allred, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Lori Rammell, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Oda called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Layton moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Weiler, Sen. Thatcher, and Rep. Stratton were absent for the vote.

2. New Felonies and Enhancements on Existing Punishments

Ms. Carlene Walker, Chair, Sentencing Commission, presented "Sentencing and Penalty Changes, 2013" and stressed the importance of legislators considering how each bill they pass affects crime trends and imprisonment rates.

Ms. Jacey Skinner, Director, Sentencing Commission, described the purpose of the commission in making recommendations regarding penalties. She reviewed the range of penalties and discussed factors that enhance penalties. Ms. Skinner summarized the 19 new felonies, or enhancements to existing felonies, created during the 2013 General Session, and outlined trends in crimes and sentences. Ms. Skinner responded to questions from the committee regarding the relationship between increased penalties and recidivism.

3. Multi-agency Strike Force

This item was not discussed. A report on the multi-agency strike force was prepared, electronically distributed to committee members, and posted on the committee web page.

4. Forfeited Property Report

This item was not discussed. A report was prepared by the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice regarding the equitable sharing of funds and property reported by Utah law enforcement agencies on federal asset forfeiture cases. It was electronically distributed to committee members and posted on the committee web page.

5. Use of Criminal Surcharges and Fines

This item was not discussed. A report was prepared by the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice regarding the amounts and uses of grants allocated from criminal surcharges and fines for funding law enforcement drug operations. The report was electronically distributed to committee members and posted on the committee web page.

6. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Oda adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.